

# THE BRIGHT LEAF ALERT

Official publication of unit 191

November 2025

## It's November!

A busy month for Unit 191. In addition to holiday planning and celebrating, we are hosting our only 2025 sectional tournament. Thank you so much to all of the volunteers who have stepped up to help make this event happen. We couldn't do it without you! The tournament will be held November 13-16th . We hope that the new location will work well for us all! More details will be sent by email in the coming days. You may find the flyer for the tournament in this newsletter or on the website.

Each November, we also conduct our annual election for the Board of Directors. Please visit our Unit webpage before Nov 21st and submit your ballot or find a paper ballot at Triangle Bridge Academy. I should remind everyone that we voted in early 2025 to reduce the number of directors down to nine members and we will be doing that gradually over the next couple of years. Thanks to **Marc Goldberg** for setting up our electronic balloting system this year and **Bill Ingram** for chairing our nominating committee. We hope that you will consider running for the board in the future! (Voting instructions are in this newsletter).

See you at a table soon!

**Deanna Larus**



# Grand National Teams 2025-2026

By Marc Goldberg

Bridge clubs across the country have been running GNT qualifying team games. What does that mean? GNT stands for Grand National Teams, and it is an annual ACBL bridge competition conducted each year at the Summer NABC (Minneapolis, MN in 2026).

To play in the Summer NABC GNT game, a player must first qualify in their District (Unit 191 is in District 7). District 7 encompasses North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and the eastern portion of Tennessee. To play in the District GNT game, a player must first qualify at a club-level GNT qualifying game.

There are four categories within the GNT competition. Flight C is for non-life master players having less than 750 MP. Flight B is for players with less than 3000 MP. Flight A is for players with less than 6000 MP. The Championship flight is for open players.

District 7 will be holding its District GNT game in Columbia, SC, on March 27-29, 2026. Flight C is a one-day event. Flights A, B, and Championship are two-day events. Specific details of the competition can be found at this link.

<https://www.bridgewebs.com/unit191brightleaf/District%207%20GNT%202026.pdf>

Now for the fun part. The top 2 teams in each Flight will advance to the Summer NABC in Minneapolis. District 7 will provide a stipend for each player to help cover travel and hotel expenses at the NABC- \$3,200 per team.

Here are some reasons why you should get your team together, qualify in a local team game, and compete in the District 7 GNT competition:

- It will be a fun day playing bridge. Any day we get to play bridge in a regional event is a good day.
- Columbia is not “too far.”
- Playing in the District GNT game is a great experience. You play in a Flight against others with your experience level. You will meet other players from our District, many of whom will become friends who you will see at other events.
- You will have the opportunity to win Gold masterpoints.
- It is very possible that you will finish at the top and head to an NABC

(continued)

Last year, Ian Cloudsdale and I (along with our teammates from Greensboro) attended the District 7 Flight B GNT competition, and we won the event. As advertised, we represented District 7 at the Summer NABC in Philadelphia, and yes, the District wrote us a check to cover our expenses. Playing against the top players in our Flight from Districts around the country was a fun and valuable experience.

The next GNT qualifying games in our area will be conducted in November.

- **Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**, 10 AM, at Quail Hollow Swim Club
- **Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**, 10 AM at the Royal Banquet
- **Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**, 7 PM at the Royal Banquet
- **Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>**, 10 AM at Quail Hollow Swim Club (1500 and 300 MP limits)
- **Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**, 10 AM, a Middle Creek Community Center

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Includes all activity in Unit 191 from September 30, 2025– October 31, 2025

463 members

We welcome to our unit:

**Kelly Fraser**

New transfer:

**Bonnie Jan Robson**

Change in status:

New Junior Master - **Nancy Grebenkemper**

New Sectional Master - **Margaret Burchinal**

New Regional Masters - **Vanessa Brown and Anne Hershey**

Congratulations!

Dear Bridge Players,

Unit 191's bridge mentoring program continued in October. The program sponsors games in person, at Triangle Bridge Academy, and online, on BBO. The in-person games have two tiers. Tier I is for mentees with fewer than 250 masterpoints playing with mentors who have fewer than 500 masterpoints. Tier II is for mentees with fewer than 500 masterpoints; mentors are unlimited.

Refreshments are provided by a crew of volunteers — **Ray Boylan, Ann Fisher, Martha Schulwitz, and Maggie Smith** — to whom we offer our appreciation. They are always looking for more volunteers. Please email one of them if you can help. Tier I plays on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 10 AM, preceded by an optional lesson from Henry Meguid at 9:15.

The October game was on Tuesday, October 28 and had seven tables, a bit more than the September game. Congratulations to **Carrie Dailey, Larry Stanczyk, Diana Spock, and Carolyn Hammond**, who finished first in their directions.

Tier II plays on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10 AM, preceded by an optional lesson at 9:15 given by a rotating set of advanced players. The October game was on Tuesday, October 14. The lesson was actually a quiz on second hand play after a card is led by declarer or dummy. If you would like a lesson or quiz on second hand play, try <http://rpbridge.net/rpil.htm>, scroll down to the Intermediate Level, and find the line for Second Hand Play. The game had six tables, one more than last month. The scores were remarkably close, with no one above 57% and no one below 43%. Congratulations to all on a very competitive and pleasant game.

The online game is new this year and is for mentees with fewer than 500 masterpoints. The mentees play together in pairs at 7 PM on the third Wednesday of each month. After the game, a panel of advanced players write comments on all the boards, which are then circulated to the mentees. Many thanks to the panel members for volunteering their time and expertise: **Glen Anderson, John Cobb, Mary Jo Dunnebacke, Renee Getz, Eric Hamilton, and Michael Lavine**. The October game was on the 17 and had six tables, one more than in September. Congratulations to **Karen Spivey and Leonardus Iking** who finished first.

If you would like to join any of these groups, please email **Michael Lavine**.

# The Polls Are Open

It is time to vote for the Unit 191 Board of Directors. The polls open on November 1<sup>st</sup> and close at midnight on November 21<sup>st</sup>. The directors elected will serve a three-year term. Two director positions are available. The nominating committee has recommended **Ira Mueller and Phylliss Woody** for board positions. The candidate's statements are included at the end of this article.

Here are the instructions for voting.

Only members of Unit 191 may vote in this election. (Many members of other units receive our emails and Alert).

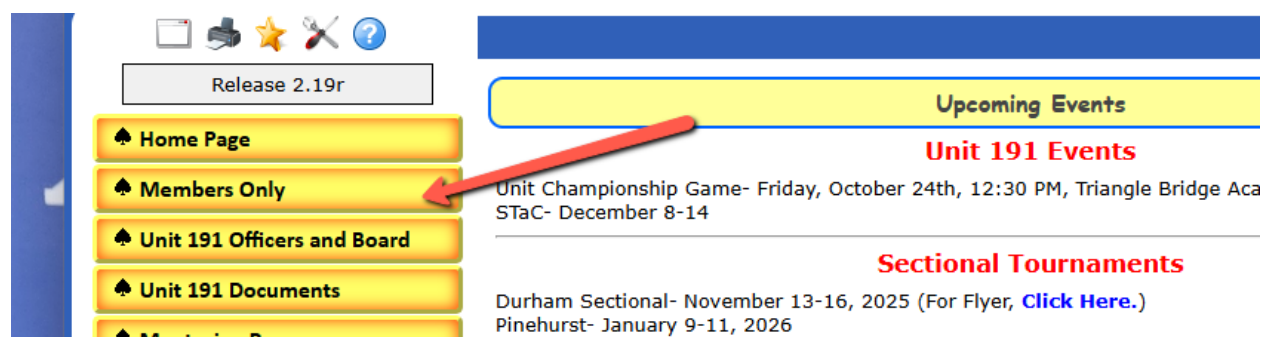
You may vote online or by paper ballot. A paper ballot is available at Triangle Bridge Academy and from Bill Ingram (email: [ingramwg@gmail.com](mailto:ingramwg@gmail.com), phone: (919) 452-8333) from November 1 to November 21. Completed paper ballots must be received by November 21st.

You may vote for up to two candidates. Ballots having votes for more than two candidates will not be counted.

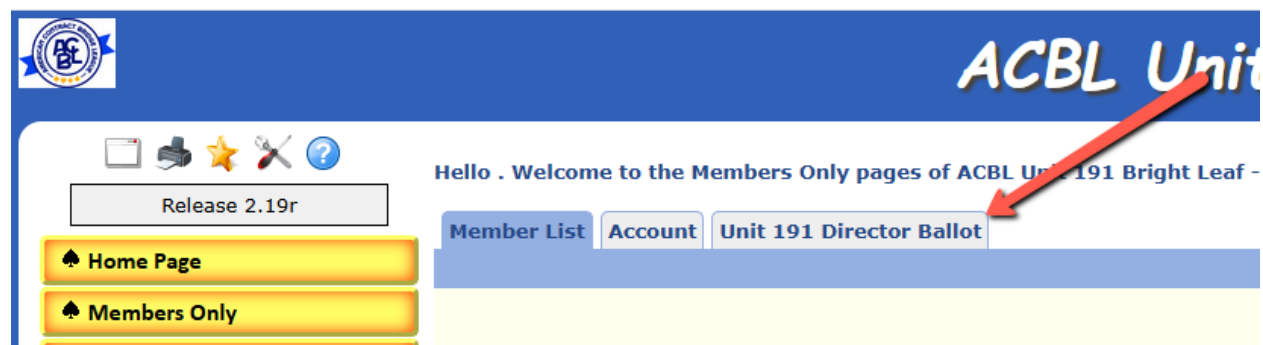
You may only vote once. Multiple submissions from one person will invalidate all of their ballots.

To vote online, first go to the Unit 191 website- <https://www.bridgewebs.com/unit191brightleaf/>

Click on the Members Only tab. Log on using your password. If you have never set up your account, follow the directions provided on the website. If you have difficulty logging on, contact the Unit 191 Webmaster for assistance (Marc Goldberg, [goldberg73@gmail.com](mailto:goldberg73@gmail.com), (717) 712-4446)



Click on the Unit 191 Director Ballot tab.



8. Vote your preferences. You can vote for those listed on the ballot as recommended by the nominating committee, or you can write in a person's name. You may vote for or write-in up to two candidates. (Note: if you write in another person's name, please check with them in advance that they are willing to serve on the Board of Directors if elected.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Write-In 1	An
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Write-In 2	An
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Write-In 3	An
		<input type="button" value="Cast Ballot"/>	<b>But</b>



9. When you are finished voting, click on Cast Ballot. You should receive an email confirming that your ballot was submitted.

#### Unit 191 Board of Directors Nominee Statements

##### Ira Mueller:

I so enjoy the game of bridge! After becoming an ACBL member in 1994, I earned a whopping 40 points over the next twenty years - both family and work life taking precedent. Happily, the last eleven years of retirement and an empty nest have afforded me more time for play. Yes – I did play with partners on BBO during Covid but much prefer playing with you in person! I have served for one term on the Unit 191 Board and would be happy to serve a second term. The Board cares deeply about our local bridge community and strives to grow our knowledge and enjoyment of the game.

##### Phylliss Woody:

Hello friends and fellow bridge players. Again, I am before you and are soliciting your vote to represent you and your silent voices among the masses. I was voted for in 2013 and have been doing this volunteer duty now for the bridge community for twelve years. Being a board member with this organization since 2013 has been thrilling. It has also been rewarding to see what we have accomplished together. At this point I have fulfilled most positions except President, Treasurer, and Secretary. My participation has been a big part of my life's work, and I enjoy it. That is why I ask for your vote and support again this year. I am Phylliss Woody, a widow of thirty-five years, mother of Zelotis Woody, grandmother of Zoey Elaine and I treasure both to the highest mountain. I retired from UNC School of Public Health in 2010. If re-elected, I will continue to serve with the same passion and zeal I exhibit daily and continue to be approachable and committed to Unit 191 and its members. I Love Bridge and its Community!!!!





## Bright Leaf Unit 191's Fall Sectional

new location

# November 13- 16, 2025

Governor's Village,  
40115 Moring (upstairs, elevator available)  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517,

THURSDAY, November 13  
7 PM STRATIFIED SWISS TEAMS

FRIDAY, November 14  
10 AM & 2:30 PM \* STRATIFIED OPEN & 749'ER  
10 AM 499'er PAIRS

SATURDAY, November 15  
10 AM & 2:30 PM\* STRATIFIED OPEN & 749'ER PAIRS  
10 AM 499'er PAIRS

SUNDAY, November 16  
10 AM & TBD STRATIFIED OPEN AND 749'ER SWISS TEAMS  
*PLAY THROUGH WITH LUNCH AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE*  
10 AM 499'er SINGLE SESSION SWISS TEAM GAME

\*FRIDAY AND SATURDAY  
2:30 PM GAMES ARE  
REGIONALLY RATED FOR  
MORE SILVER POINTS!

**Stratification & bracketing for all  
games by average pair/team  
masterpoints.**

Open Stratification:  
0-1500, 1500 - 3500, 3500+

499'er Stratification  
0-199, 200 - 299, 300- 499

749'er Stratification:  
0-300, 300-500, 500-750

**ENTRY FEE: \$14/PLAYER/GAME**  
**0-20 MP play for free!**

TOURNAMENT CHAIR  
Deanna Larus [deanna@elarus.com](mailto:deanna@elarus.com)  
(919)656-9666

PARTNERSHIP CHAIR  
Ann Fisher [afisher9tk@gmail.com](mailto:afisher9tk@gmail.com)  
(919)417-7176



NEARBY LODGING  
COURTYARD MARRIOTT CHAPEL HILL  
100 MARRIOTT WAY, Chapel HILL, NC 27517  
919-883-0700  
There is no group rate.

# NOVEMBER 2025

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
<u>3</u> 9-11 AM Online Play & Learn (RSVP)  12:30 PM Unit Championship  6:30 -8:30 PM Social Bridge	<u>4</u> 1-4 PM Nuplicate Barometer	<u>5</u> 9:30 AM – 12 PM Newcomers Barometer  12:30 PM Stratified Open	<u>6</u> 12 PM ABA Private Game  9:30 AM Limited Game (<750mps)	<u>7</u> 12:30 PM Stratified Open	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>10</u> 9-11 AM Online Play & Learn (RSVP)  12:30 PM Stratified Open  6:30 -8:30 PM Social Bridge	<u>11</u> 9:15 AM Tier II MM Lesson  10:00 AM Tier II MM Game  1-4 PM Nuplicate Barometer	<u>12</u> 9:30 AM – 12 PM Newcomers Barometer  12:30 PM Stratified Open	November 13, 14, 15, 16  UNIT 191'S SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT  See Flyer Below for Schedule and Location			
<u>17</u> 9-11 AM Online Play & Learn (RSVP)  12:30 PM Stratified Open  6:30-8:30 PM Social Bridge	<u>18</u> 1-4 PM Nuplicate Barometer	<u>19</u> 9:30 AM – 12 PM Newcomers Barometer  12:30 PM Stratified Open  7 PM MM BBO Game	<u>20</u> 12 PM ABA Private Game	<u>21</u> 12:30 PM Stratified Open	<u>22</u> 10 AM  Eight is Enough Swiss Teams	<u>23</u>
<u>24</u> 9-11 AM Online Play & Learn (RSVP)  12:30 PM Stratified Open  6:30-8:30 PM Social Bridge	<u>25</u> 9:15 AM Tier I MM Lesson  10:00 AM Tier I MM Game  1-4 PM Nuplicate Barometer	<u>26</u> 9:30 AM– 12 PM Newcomers Barometer  12:30 PM Stratified Open	<u>27</u>  THANKSGIVING DAY	<u>28</u> 12:30 PM Stratified Open	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>

TBA CLOSED ON SATURDAYS and SUNDAYS except for Saturday, November 22 there will be a 10 AM Swiss Team Game-  
Eight is Enough